

Mar 27 2005 14:13

REC Components

8607493478

P. 1

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAR 28 2005

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Peter Irrgang et al.

Serial No.: 10/679,972

Filed: October 6, 2003

Title: Fishing Rod Handle

Attorney Docket No.: 05727-00021

Group Art Unit: 3643

Examiner: Kurt C. Rowan

☒ CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306, on the date shown below.

*Lawrence H. Meier* 28 March 2005  
Lawrence H. Meier Date

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## DECLARATION OF ALAN GNANN

I, Alan Gnann, of 128 Slater Road, Tolland, Connecticut, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am president and owner of REC Components, 17 Middle River Drive, Stamford, Connecticut ("REC") ([www.rec.com](http://www.rec.com)), and have been the president of REC since 1997.
2. REC has been manufacturing high quality fishing rod components and fishing rod accessories since 1968. REC manufactures virtually every type of fishing rod component except the fishing rod "blank," i.e., the rod itself.
3. I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in ceramic engineering from Alfred University, Alfred, New York in 1971.
4. I obtained a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah in 1977.

Law Offices of  
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC  
199 Main Street  
P.O. Box 190  
Burlington, VT 05402-0190  
(802) 863-2375

5. I have been involved with the fishing rod/fishing rod component manufacturing industry since 1971.
6. From 1971 to 1978, I was a ceramic engineer in the Carbon Products Division of Union Carbide, where I participated in the development and manufacture of carbon and graphite fibers used in tubular structures, including what I believe were the earliest fishing rod blanks using these fibers.
7. From 1980 to 1985, I was a commercial custom fishing rod builder.
8. I am presently Vice Chairman of the Board, and Government Affairs and Alliances Committee Chairman, of the American Fly Fishing Trade Associate (AFFTA) ([www.affta.com](http://www.affta.com)), the sole trade organization for the fly fishing industry.
9. I am presently a member of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) ([www.asafishing.org](http://www.asafishing.org)), wherein I sit on five committees, including the Government Affairs Committee.
10. It is well known in the fields of rod fishing, fishing rod manufacturing, fishing rod component manufacturing and other fields relating to the fishing industry that the terms "uplocking" and "downlocking" are used relative to reel locks to indicate the direction of motion in which a lock, e.g., a nut, is moved relative to a corresponding fishing rod in order to lock a reel to the fishing rod. In this connection, it is further well known in the fields noted above that the direction of motion along a fishing rod extending away from the butt, or handle, end of the fishing rod and toward the tip of the fishing rod is referred to as "up" the rod and the direction of motion along a fishing rod extending toward the butt end of the fishing rod and away from the tip of the fishing rod is referred to as "down" the rod.
11. Consequently, it is well known in the fields noted above that an "uplocking reel lock" is a reel lock in which the lock is moved away from the butt end of a corresponding fishing rod and toward the tip of the rod while locking a reel to the rod. In an uplocking reel lock, the lock is substantially located between the butt end of the rod and the reel seat of the rod.

Mar 27 2005 14:13

REC Components

8607493478

p. 3

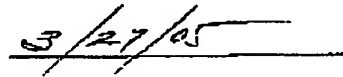
Likewise, it is well known in the noted fields that a "downlocking reel lock" is a reel lock in which the lock is moved toward the butt end of a corresponding fishing rod and away from the tip of the rod while locking a reel to the rod. In a downlocking reel lock, the lock is substantially located between the tip end of the rod and the reel seat of the rod.

I declare that all statements made herein that are of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

By:

  
Alan Gnann

Date:



BTV.432945.1